

II. REMARKS

The present application comprises twenty-three (23) claims, numbered 17, 18, 22 to 32, 34, 35 and 37 to 44.

Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 21, 33 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 34, 35, 37 and 38 have been amended to correct their respective dependencies.

Claims 42 to 44 have been added. Support for these claims may be found, *inter alia*, on page 16, lines 23 to 25; page 19, lines 23 to 27; and Figures 5A, 5B and 6A to 6C of the specification and drawings as originally filed.

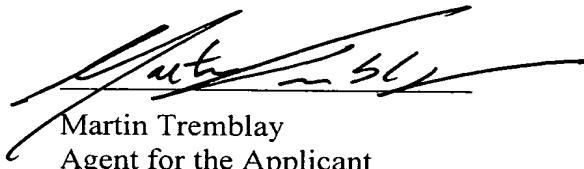
It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by way of the present amendment.

III. CONCLUSION

The Applicant is of the view that claims 17, 18, 22 to 32, 34, 35 and 37 to 44 are in condition for allowance. Early allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

If the application is not considered to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



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